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for example, to obtain 1000 silver prints from a professional photographer which shall all be satisfactory. We have therefore tried various photo-mechanical, lithographic and other means of reproducing either the original plates, or enlargements from them. A specimen of the most careful lithographic work is given in the present paper. The best phototype reproduction which I have been able to obtain is given in the *Century Magazine* for July, 1891. No one of these plates does justice to the original from which it was copied—neither to the original negative nor to Professor WEINEK's exquisite drawings. And everything hitherto published must be regarded as tentative only.

We are, however, now in a position, to reproduce such originals in an adequate and entirely satisfactory manner.

Through the interest of Professor WEINEK and by the kindness of the Chief of the Imperial Institute of Military Geography, of Vienna, the Institute has consented to reproduce the drawings by *heliogravure*. Some specimens have already been received and they show conclusively that the question of reproducing such work is solved. It is hoped to go on with these studies of the moon as rapidly as possible through the co-operation of Professor WEINEK and the Lick Observatory.

MOUNT HAMILTON, October 1, 1891.

ESTRELLAS FUGACES, BÓLIDOS Y AEROLITOS, ESTUDIO POR EL
DR. JESUS MUÑOZ TÉBAR, (Caracas, 1891, 8vo, pp. 27.)

[Abstract by the Author.]*

“An essay presented by the author to the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, as a membership contribution.

“The essay begins by a succinct historical description, which, brief as it is, touches every important point studied and meditated upon during the present century concerning shooting stars, bolides and aerolites, and eventually lands on the explanation of the present cometary theory.

“Then it goes on exposing the principal incidents which have been observed in connection with the appearance of said meteors, and presents a series of very grave objections against the present

* Dr. TÉBAR has printed in Caracas, under the date of August 25, 1891, a pamphlet in the Spanish language with the above title. On page 2 of the pamphlet is an abstract in English which is here reprinted.

theory, objections based upon those observations and upon several scientific principles.

“After some very interesting considerations on the subject and a number of remarkable quotations, it concludes by proposing an entirely new theory for the explanation of these phenomena.

“According to the author the shooting stars are ball lightnings which abound in the upper regions of the atmosphere and under certain conditions their number all over one and the same region is so considerable, as to present the appearance of a shower.

“When these lightnings are formed in the lower regions of the atmosphere or in the case of their descending far down in the same, they originate the so-called bolides; and when the ball lightning darts through a cloud or through air impregnated with substances lifted up from the surface of the soil and scattered in the atmosphere through cyclones and hurricanes or volcanic eruptions, their effect is to unite all those substances into one single mass, thus forming the meteorite or aerolite.

“Ball lightnings and rains of ball lightnings are not of frequent occurrence in the atmospheric strata immediately above the surface of the earth, still there are instances of both kinds of phenomena.”

BESTIMMUNG VON PARALLAXEN DURCH REGIS-
TRIR-BEOBACHTUNGEN AM MERIDIAN-
KREISE, VON DR. J. C. KAPTEYN.

BY PROFESSOR LEWIS BOSS.*

A more exact knowledge of the sun's motion in space is a pressing requirement in preparing the way for the stellar astronomy of the future. Up to the present time all our attempts to regard the stars in a comprehensive way, as situated in space of three dimensions, have been either rudely tentative, or merely speculative. To some extent this must continue to be the position of generalization in stellar astronomy for some time to come. Yet it is plain to be seen that stellar astronomy in its true geometrical relations is gradually advancing in importance with sure steps and continuously, toward the point when it must become the most fruitful as well as the most imposing object of research

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